

Differential responding Responding in different ways or at different rates in the presence of different stimuli.

Interdimensional discrimination A discrimination between two stimuli that differ in several different respects.

Intradimensional discrimination A discrimination between stimuli that differ in only one stimulus characteristic, such as color, brightness, or pitch.

Multiple schedule of reinforcement A procedure in which different reinforcement schedules are in effect in the presence of different stimuli presented in succession. Generally, each stimulus comes to evoke a pattern of responding that corresponds to the reinforcement schedule that is in effect in the presence of that stimulus.

Overshadowing Interference with the conditioning of a stimulus due to the simultaneous presence of another stimulus that is easier to condition.

Perceptual concept Responding the same way to a set of physically different stimuli (pictures of various types of dogs, for example) that all belong to the same perceptual category (dog).

S⁺ A discriminative stimulus that signals the availability of reinforcement for an instrumental response.

S⁻ A discriminative stimulus that signals the absence of reinforcement for an instrumental response.

Stimulus dimension The feature (color, for example) that distinguishes a series of stimuli in a test of stimulus generalization.

Stimulus discrimination Differential responding in the presence of two or more stimuli.

Stimulus equivalence Responding to physically distinct stimuli in the same fashion because of common prior experiences with the stimuli.

Stimulus generalization The occurrence of behavior learned through habituation or conditioning in the presence of stimuli that are different from the particular stimulus that was used during training.

Stimulus generalization gradient A gradient of responding that may be observed if participants are tested with stimuli that increasingly differ from the stimulus that was present during training.